

whence Prof. Henderson has sent us four specimens upon *Thalamitæ* collected in 1887 in shallow water. The parasite produces a very slight deformation of the carapace. The female is at once distinguished from that of *Portunicepon portuni*, Kossm., by having only two dorsal bosses, upon the sixth and seventh thoracic segments (that of the sixth segment much larger than the following one). The fringes of the pleal appendages are fine but unequal, and the pleon is less elongated than in *Grapsicepon*. The male is much degraded; the pigment is scanty, and the lateral lobes of the pygidium are nearly confounded with the median portion; the pleal feet are very rudimentary; nevertheless they exist, while, according to Kossmann, they are entirely wanting in *Portunicepon portuni*. The ventral buttons are not very visible and much less prominent than in *Grapsicepon*. In fact, as might be expected from the systematic position of the host, the parasite of the *Thalamitæ* especially resembles the Cepons of *Portuni*, and we place it provisionally in the genus *Portunicepon*.

Hitherto the Bopyrians have been met with upon the Crustacea which live in small bays with quiet water. *Grapsicepon Edwardsi* shows us that the Sargasso Sea also furnishes conditions of medium favourable to these animals; moreover, we already know there *Bopyroides latreuticola*, Gissler, a parasite of *Latreutes (Hippolyte) ensiferus*, M.-Edw. But a recent discovery demonstrates that even the Crustacea of great depths are not exempt from the attacks of the Epicarides. Prof. A. Milne-Edwards has kindly sent us a superb Bopyrian, *Pleurocrypta formosa*, G. & B., which is parasitic upon *Ptychogaster formosus*, A. M.-Edw., a splendid species of Galatheid dredged at a depth of 946 metres at the Canary Islands, during the voyage of the 'Talisman.' We shall shortly publish a description of this Epicarid; but we cannot conclude this note without publicly thanking MM. A. Milne-Edwards, A. Agassiz, and J. R. Henderson for the valuable materials of which they have enabled us to make use.—*Comptes Rendus*, July 2, 1888, pp. 44-47.

*On Henops brunneus, Hutton.*  
By W. M. MASKELL, F.R.M.S.\*

About October last a resident in the Wairarapa district sent down to the Colonial Museum a few twigs of apple quite covered over with some black substance, amongst which were slowly crawling about half a dozen rather large flies; and he desired some information on this, which he considered as a new "blight," stating that it occurred on both apple- and peach-trees in his garden. The specimens were referred to me; and at first sight I thought the sooty-black coating to be the usual fungus accompanying scale-insects, the flies being unconnected with it. Closer examination, however, showed that

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the black mass was really composed of many thousands of eggs; and the flies were soon observed to be still laying more of these eggs on the twig, until in a short while it was so thickly covered with them as to be quite hidden. With the assistance of Mr. G. V. Hudson I found that the flies were undoubtedly *Henops brunneus*, a species of Dipteron hitherto only reported (in Hutton's 'Catalogue of New-Zealand Diptera') from Lake Wanaka. I was able to assure the gentlemen who sent the specimens that probably they would not do great harm to his trees.

But the investigation so far shewed that the knowledge of *Henops* hitherto possessed was incomplete. The available works in which it is mentioned were Hutton's 'Catalogue' and Westwood's 'Classification of Insects.' In the former the description given is very short and indefinite; in the second it is stated that *Henops* and its allied genera are very little known and "the larvæ have not been observed." I placed one of the apple-twigs covered with eggs in a glass box, in the hope that the larvæ might possibly be hatched, and after about five or six weeks I found a perfect cloud of minute larvæ, wriggling in the liveliest manner. Having thus achieved a further stage of knowledge of this species, and the fly itself being in some respects rather a curious one, I have ventured to bring forward the following description of the larva and the imago. Unfortunately, not being able to procure a supply of apple- or peach-leaves, I have not succeeded in feeding the larvæ and obtaining pupæ. I tried various leaves as food for them, as well as giving them earth to burrow in, but they all died.

#### Order DIPTERA.

#### Suborder OVIPARA.

#### Family ACRO CERIDÆ, Leach.

(*Inflata*, Latreille; *Vesiculosæ*, Macquart.)

Body short and thick; head bent down, small, entirely occupied by the eyes; thorax and abdomen large, inflated; proboscis variable, sometimes long, sometimes absent.

#### Genus HENOPS, Illiger.

(*Ogcodes*, Latreille.)

Proboscis very short, scarcely noticeable; antennæ of two short joints with a long style. Eyes naked, compound. Abdomen broader than the thorax.

#### *Henops brunneus*, Hutton.

(Cat. of Dipt. 1881, p. 25.)

Flies rather large, but squat-looking and heavy; motions very slow. Thorax much elevated, the head being bent down beneath it,

so as not to be visible when the insect is viewed from above. Abdomen round and swollen, wider than the thorax, but seeming as if cut off short, the posterior extremity being turned under; there are six segments in the abdomen. *Colour* dark brown, almost black, on the thorax, with short yellow hairs; abdomen dark brown, with a yellow band marking each segment; head black; wings hyaline; halteres yellow. The *winglets* are very large and scale-like. *Eyes* very large, compound, occupying all the upper part of the head, but not highly convex. *Antennæ* inserted in front, between the eyes; two-jointed, both joints very short; the style is very long, inflated near the base, narrow in the shaft and slightly dilated at the tip, where there are two short bristles. *Proboscis* very short, almost obsolete, conical, placed so much beneath the down-turned head as to be extremely difficult to detect. *Feet* long and slender; tarsus five-jointed; claw double, with three pulvilli. *Wings* with brown costal and subcostal veins; discoidal cell open; cubital cell large; the postical vein appears to have a branch almost if not quite disconnected. *Length* of the body, in the usual position, nearly  $\frac{1}{5}$  inch.

The eggs of this insect are very small, sooty black, truncate-ovate; as stated above, they are laid in such numbers as to cover a twig with a black coating.

The [newly hatched] larvæ are very minute, about  $\frac{1}{60}$  inch long; dark grey or brown in colour; elongated, narrow, tapering at both ends, with twelve distinct segments, of which the fourth from the head is the widest; on each segment is a row of short fine hairs. They have a wriggling mode of progression forwards, and are in constant motion. The head is pointed and terminates in two very small hooks, with a pad or pulvillus. The posterior extremity is also acute, ending in three very minute points, with, on each side, a thin curved appendage. The spiracles are only two, very minute circular orifices, situated on the last segment but one.

Both Mr. Hudson and I tried without success to procure the pupæ. The larva of a fly not far removed from *Henops* (*Clitellaria*) is said to take more than two years before undergoing its transformation.

In consideration of the fact that the larvæ of the whole family of Acroceridæ have not hitherto been known, and that the descriptions of the various genera are but fragmentary, the above account of *Henops brunneus* may be of interest. The larva would seem to be perhaps more similar to those of *Cecidomyia* than to any others of the order, though the perfect fly is quite different.

#### *On the Systematic Position of the Genus Hero.*

By M. A. VAYSSIÈRE.

Among the Opisthobranchiate Gasteropods there are some genera the systematic position of which is still uncertain. Having had the opportunity of capturing, in the Bay of Marseilles, two or three individuals belonging to one of these genera, I set myself the task of establishing their characters.